

XIII.—*Preliminary Notice of a new Genus (Parectatosoma) of Phasmidæ from Madagascar, with brief Descriptions of its two Species.*—By  
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The interesting and remarkable animals briefly noticed below formed part of a large collection of insects, chiefly Coleoptera, recently received in London from Madagascar, and I was fortunate, while at home on furlough, to secure specimens of them from Mr. E. W. Janson, the well-known Natural History Agent.

They are unquestionably nearly related to *Ectatosoma*, an Australian genus, the three known members of which are three of the most curious and striking forms comprised in the whole class Insecta. This relationship I have indicated in the name of the new genus which the differences presented by these insects compel me to propose for their reception.

PARECTATOSOMA,\* gen. nov.

Closely allied to the Australian genus *Ectatosoma*, but differing therefrom in the following characters:—the prothorax is relatively longer and more spiny; the male is devoid of ocelli, and, like the female, brachypterous; the abbreviated tegmina in both sexes are shorter than the abbreviated wings; and the upper crest of all the femora is produced into a sharp genual spine.

Of the species of the Australian genus, *Ectatosoma bufonium*, Westw., is the one which the Madagascar forms most nearly approach.

1. *Parectatosoma hystrix*, n. sp.

♂ ♀. Head armed with 12 spines (besides scattered spinules) arranged in four longitudinal rows and in pairs, of which one is large, compressed, and thorny, and constitutes the conspicuous cephalic horns; the pair of spines immediately in front of these is also compound, each being provided with a sharp spine-like cusp in front. The postantennary pair of spines is as well-developed as in *Ectatosoma*.

Sides and upper surface of prothorax strongly armed with thorns, some of which are double. The apices of the small tegmina barely reaching the bases of the wings, the true metanotum is consequently exposed and it is armed at the middle of its hinder margin with a pair of stout thorns. The tergum of the 1st somite and the terga of more or fewer (according to sex) of the remaining abdominal somites provided at their hinder extremities with two cross rows of spines. Posterior margin of tergum of last abdominal somite in the ♀ symmetrically divided into six spinous processes.

\* From *παρά*, by the side of, and *Ectatosoma*, generic name.

Colour—deep black-brown, almost black, blotched with yellow, sparingly so on the undersurface and legs, but more profusely on the pronotum and on the terga of the abdominal somites, on which parts the colour assumes an orange tinge and extends to the points of the spines; the antennæ are ringed at the joints with the same colour; organs of flight, greenish yellow, with their bases and principal nervures black.

♂. Length of body 61 millims., of head 7, pronotum 5, mesonotum 14, metanotum 7, abdomen  $25 + 7 = 32$ , tegmina 2.5, wings 8, fore femur 17, tibia 17.25, intermediate femur 13.5, tibia 15.5, posterior femur 17, tibia 21, antennæ 53.

♀. Length of body 86 millims., of head 10, pronotum 7, mesonotum 18, metanotum 10, abdomen  $31.5 + 12.5 = 44$ , tegmina 4.5, wings 10.5, fore femur 19, tibia 20, intermediate femur 16, tibia 18, posterior femur 21, tibia 25, antennæ imperfect.

*Hab.*—3 ♂ and 3 ♀ from Fianaràntsoa; and 1 ♀ from Antanànarivo, Madagascar, differing from the rest only in being much more variegated.

## 2. *Parectatosoma echinus*, n. sp.

♂ ♀. Slenderer, and less numerously and less strongly spined than the preceding. Head armed: ♀ with 10 spines besides spinules, the cephalic horns more foliaceous and more sharply spined, with only one pair of spines in front of them instead of two and that simple: ♂ with 8 only, one of the lateral pairs not being developed. Postantennary spines reduced to minute tubercles. Vestiges of wings and tegmina larger, those of the latter overlapping one another, and those of the former so as to conceal from view all but about one square millimetre of the unarmed metanotum. The tergum of the 1st abdominal somite with but one row of spines at its hinder end; that of the terminal somite ♀ divided at its posterior margin into four spinous processes.

Colour—body brown like rotten leaves, with the legs, antennæ, organs of flight (which have their principal nervures darker), and spines lighter.

♂. Length of body 64 millims., head 4.5, pronotum 4.5, mesonotum 14, metanotum 6, abdomen  $27.25 + 8.5 = 35.75$ , tegmina 3.75, wings 7.3, fore femur 17, tibia 17, intermediate femur 12.5, tibia 13.5, posterior femur 17.5, tibia 19.5, antennæ 47.

♀. Length of body 80 millims., head 7, pronotum 6.5, mesonotum 16.5, metanotum 8, abdomen  $31 + 12 = 43$ , tegmina 6, wings 11, fore femur 16.6, tibia 17, intermediate femur 12.5, tibia 13.6, posterior femur 18, tibia 21, antennæ 43.5.

The fore legs and all the tibiæ in the male of this species are nearly quite simple.

*Hab.*—1 ♂ and 2 ♀ from Fianaràntsoa.

